



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

January 5, 2019

Memorandum

To: Deputy Director, National Park Service, Exercising the Authority of the Director
From: Acting Secretary *Carol B. Miller*
Subject: National Park Service Lapse Contingency Plan and Use of Federal Lands
Recreation Enhancement Act Fees

The National Park Service Organic Act charges us with the dual mission of conserving park resources and providing for their enjoyment. At times there is tension between these two mandates. The National Park Service ("Service") charges fees through the payment of visitor services through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act ("FLREA") at parks. These fee collections have been retained by the Service and they can be used for a variety of specified purposes.

We must provide opportunities for people to access and enjoy our wonderful parks, and we must do so in a way that ensures the same opportunity for future generations to enjoy. Despite the tremendous efforts of many important partners ranging from state and local governments, to non-profits, concessionaires and even individual volunteers who have worked extremely hard to preserve our parks over the last two weeks, the extended lapse in appropriations has highlighted some significant challenges the Service faces as it strived to appropriately balance this dual mission.

As the result of these challenges, I carefully reviewed the National Park Service's Contingency Plan. I have determined we must immediately take specific actions to better balance our dual mandate. Therefore, the National Park Service shall:

- Immediately modify the National Park Service's Contingency Plan to provide that each park which has available balances of FLREA funds, will immediately utilize such funds to address the following items in a manner that maintains: restrooms and sanitation, trash collection, road maintenance, campground operations, law enforcement and emergency operations, and staffing entrance gates as necessary to provide critical safety information. These operations shall be maintained until such funds have reached a zero balance. Immediately provide me with a list of such parks.
- Immediately provide me with a list of parks that do not charge fees or have insufficient available balances, who have been challenged by the implementation of the lapse plan, along with a proposed expenditure plan from our available national and regional fee funds to address these challenges, consistent with the activities described above. Once I am provided the list, I will work the Deputy Director to direct the expenditure of fees to promptly address those challenges. By making these improvements, we better ensure our parks are protected for future generations, while still providing appropriate opportunities for the enjoyment of the American people today.